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THEODOR KARL JUST

1904 - 1960

THEODOR KARL JUST

(1904-1960)

On June 14, 1960 Dr. Theodor Karl Just passed away at his home in Oak Park, Illinois. For twenty-two years he was Scientific Director and Editor of Lloyd Library and Museum. He founded and edited "Lloydia" a Quarterly Journal of Biological Science, the official publication of Lloyd Library in December 1938 with volume one in conjunction with Dr. John Hobart Hoskins, Head of the Department of Botany of the University of Cincinnati. The "Bibliography of American Paleobotany 1952-1957" which appears in this issue is his final contribution to science and the culmination of a brilliant career not only in scientific writings, which were many in the botanical field in which he was so versatile, but also in the active part he took in the numerous scientific associations, chairmanships and other honorary positions he held. At the time of his death he was also Curator Emeritus of the Botany Department of the Chicago Natural History Museum and Editor of its Bulletin. He held the Chief Curatorship from 1947-1960. He was formerly head of the Department of Botany of the University of Notre Dame from 1940-1945. While there he received a Faculty Prize for outstanding service. He edited the "American Midland Naturalist" from 1930 through 1947 and was founder and editor of the "American Midland Naturalist Monographs 1944-1947." He edited "Paleobotany Report, Earth Sciences" in 1959 and was also Assistant Editor of "Chronica Botanica" from 1940 to 1960. In addition he contributed to numerous American and Foreign periodicals original articles of great penetration and depth on a variety of botanical subjects and published book reviews on publications of importance to the botanical profession. His principal interests were in the fields of taxonomy and morphology of spermatophytes, plant geography and evolution and paleobotany.

Born on October 27, 1904 in Gross-Gerungs, Austria he was the son of Alois and Anna (Traindl) Just. He received his Ph.D. degree from the University of Vienna in 1928. He was also Assistant in the Herbarium of the Naturhistorisches Museum, Vienna 1928-1929. He came to the United States in 1929 and became a naturalized citizen in 1938. He was a Research Associate of the Department of Biological Science of Northwestern University from 1947 to 1960. He was Professor and Lecturer in the Department of Botany, University of Chicago, from 1951 until the time of his death. He was chairman of the Committee of Paleobotany, Division of Earth Sciences of the National Research Council from 1950-51 and a member of the Committee of Biological Science of the National Science Foundation from 1952-1954. He was also a consultant to the Europe-Asia Divisional Office of Strategic Services. In 1929 he was a member of a party that conducted an Expedition to Greece. Other memberships included participation in the Society of Sigma Xi, the Botanical Society, Ecologi-

cal Society, Society for the Study of Evolution of which he was Vice-President in 1954, Geological Society, California Botanical Society, Sullivant Moss Society, Torrey Botanical Club, New England Botanical Club of which he was also a Fellow and the Indiana Academy of Science of which he was President in 1943. His Presidential address "The Rates of Evolutionary Processes" published in the Proceedings of the Academy v. 53, pp. 14-27, 1944 has become a classic in its field. His paper on "Geology and Plant Distribution" which appeared in Ecological Monographs v. 17, pp. 127-137 April 1947 was translated into Spanish and published in Del Anuario Del Instituto Tropical de Investigaciones Cientificas, Universidad de El Salvador, 1947. His "Origin et Evolution de la Fleur" appeared in the Annales Biologiques v. 28, pp. 135-148, 1952. He edited "Plant and Animal Communities" 1939 and the Symposium on Paleobotanical Taxonomy in 1946.

The "Morphology of the Flower" appeared in the Botanical Review v. 5 pp. 115-131 for February 1939. The "International Rules of Botanical Nomenclature" were published under his chairmanship of the Committee on Paleobotanical Nomenclature, Botanical Society of America in June 1949. His "Gymnosperms and the Origin of Angiosperms" appeared in the Botanical Gazette v. 110, pp. 91-103 September 1948. He contributed a section to Deam's "Flora of Indiana" 1940. A complete bibliography of his writings will be compiled later for scientific reference.

Dr. Just was an inspiring teacher and lecturer, skilled administrator and above all a scholar with complete dedication to his chosen field. He was fluent in many languages. His scientific legacy is in the printed word of his writings which is as enduring as the chronology of the ages he studied and clarified for future scientists, many of whom were his students. His cheerful personality, co-operative spirit and magnanimous extension of his energies and time to all who called upon him will never be forgotten by those who were privileged to know him, share a committee with him or hear him in the lecture room. The scientific world has lost an internationally recognized authority in the botanical disciplines he enriched by his meticulous researches.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Agnes McGarry Just and his daughters, Anne Elizabeth, Mary Margaret, and Jane Frances Just.

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MRS. CORINNE MILLER SIMONS
Librarian

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